

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An exhaust gas purification filter for trapping the particulates contained in the exhaust gas,
wherein, before the amount of the
5 particulates deposited in said exhaust gas purification filter reaches a predetermined value, the pressure loss caused by the passage of the exhaust gas is increased with the increase in the deposited amount of particulates, and after the deposited amount of the
10 particulates exceeds the predetermined value, the pressure loss is not substantially increased.

2. An exhaust gas purification filter according to claim 1,

15 wherein said predetermined amount of the particulates deposited is smaller than the amount which makes the partitioning walls melt due to the heat generated when burning the deposited particulates.

3. An exhaust gas purification filter of a honeycombed structure having a multiplicity of cells
20 surrounded by partitioning walls,

wherein at least some of the cells each have a plug at one of the end portions thereof,

25 wherein at least some of the plugs to be arranged on the downstream side of the honeycombed structure in the fluid path are partial plugs each have an opening allowing the fluid to pass therethrough, and

30 wherein the pressure loss caused when the fluid entering the cells passes through the partitioning walls is smaller than the pressure loss caused when the fluid passes through the partial plugs.

4. An exhaust gas purification filter according to claim 3,

35 wherein each of the end surfaces of the exhaust gas purification filter includes an alternate arrangement of the cell end portions each having a plug and the cell end portions each having no plug.

5. An exhaust gas purification filter according to

claim 3,

5 wherein all the plugs located on the upstream side of the honeycombed structure are full-fledged plugs capable of blocking the passage of the fluid entirely.

6. An exhaust gas purification filter according to claim 3,

10 wherein the filling rate of said partial plugs is in the range of 5 to 80 % in terms of $((A - B)/A) \times 100$, where B is the area of the opening of each 15 partial plug and A is the area of the cell opening.

7. An exhaust gas purification filter according to claim 3,

15 wherein the plugs located at the central portion of the downstream end surface of the exhaust gas purification filter are partial plugs, and the plugs located around the partial plugs are complete plugs for 20 completely blocking the passage of the fluid.

25 8. An exhaust gas purification filter according to claim 3,

wherein all the plugs located on the downstream end surface of said exhaust gas purification filter are the partial plugs.

9. An exhaust gas purification filter according to 25 claim 3,

wherein the partial plugs represent at least 30 % of all the plugs located on the downstream end surface of said exhaust gas purification filter.

30 10. An exhaust gas purification filter according to claim 3,

35 wherein that area of the downstream end surface of said exhaust gas purification filter which is located within a curved line connecting the middle points of the lines connecting the center and the outer periphery of the downstream end surface is defined as a central area, and the area located outside the particular curved line is defined as a outer peripheral area, and

wherein the partial plugs represent a higher percentage of the plugs in the central area than in the outer peripheral area.